

August 9, 2007

Meeting Notes- Land Use Committee

1. Committee members present: Kerry Finley, Myrt Webb, Karen Reeves, Velvet Phillips-Sullivan, Chuck Roady
2. There were no changes to the agenda.
3. Opening Comments:
 - Kerry mentioned that she had sent out to committee members information on water quality from the USGS.
 - Myrt mentioned that the committee had only one more meeting to discuss findings and recommendation. After that we needed to complete the report if we hoped to have it ready for the September task force meeting.
4. Discussion of Findings/Recommendations:
 - Development in extreme or high fire risk areas should require a report from a consulting forester on fire load/risk to be used by the county in determining mitigation requirements.
 - The county should use the water quality information from USGS to determine water quality trends in the Flathead.
 - Building an adequate fiscal structure to support services in rural areas is the most critical issue county government faces. There is no “one size fits all” solution. New tools are needed to help county government meet the requirements that citizens are placing on it.
 - New residents in rural areas should be notified of the public services that are and are not available.
 - Karen provided more detailed information on natural resource issues.
 - Residents need to understand the total cost of ownership in rural living. Land may be cheaper in a remote area but the added costs of transportation and other services may result in the total cost of living in the area much higher than a residence in an incorporated area.
5. Next meeting:
 - The last findings and recommendations meeting will be 23 August. After that we will have 1 or 2 more meetings to discuss the draft report. The times and dates of these meetings will depend on the progress of the draft report.
 - Myrt will provide some of the draft report before the 23 August meeting.
 - Myrt asks that the committee provide comments by email.